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Imitative Behavior and Expressive Ability in Facial

Expression of Emotion.

INSTITUTION

Washington State Univ., Pullman. Dept. of Child and

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NOTE

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ABSTRACT

Vicarious influence on emotional response has been demonstrated in several studies, but the identity between the response of the model and that of the observer has received little attention. Seventy-two children from three grade levels were tested for their ability to recognize and form facial expressions of emotion. The subjects then observed a model portray happy or sad facial expressions in two films, while raters observed the subject's facial responses. The children imitated the facial expressions of the model at a significant level. Both ability to recognize and ability to form expressions improved with the child's grade level. Ability to form expressions was significantly related to the subject's level of imitation of the model's expressions. [Not available in hard copy due to marginal legibility of original document.] (Author)



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